

## CHRISTIAN YINGLING HOUSE

288 EAST MAIN STREET

This half-wood, half-brick pile is reputed to be the oldest house in Westminster, although it is a little difficult to locate the "oldest house" under the additions and alterations of the past 200 years. The present building, with its mansard roof, has been adapted into three apartments, but it is possible still to see log rafters and uncoursed fieldstone foundations in the brick-floored basement of the eastern half of the building. A fine one and a half story, gable-roofed, two-bay-by-one-bay brick outbuilding still stands in the rear of the property; the building, thought by the present owner to be a slave cabin, has recently been successfully restored.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Carr 123  
070125204

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Christian Yingling House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

288 East Main Street (MD 32)

6

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Carroll

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Arthur Taylor

Telephone #: 848-8323

STREET &amp; NUMBER

182 East Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21157**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 477

Folio #: 580

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Westminster Bicentennial Celebration

DATE

October 1964

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Carroll County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Number 288 East Main Street, Westminster, is popularly held to be the "oldest house still standing in the City" (Westminster Bicentennial). While nothing substantiated has been found to the contrary, it is, at first, a little difficult to locate the "oldest house" under the additions and alterations of 200 years. But it is, interestingly, these very additions that give the house a good deal of charm today. (See question 8)

The house has been almost continuously expanding, but it now presents 2 fairly distinct sections. Both front the south side of East Main Street (Md. Route 32); both are three bays wide and three stories tall, with the third story, on the entrance (north) facade being, for both, one continuous mansard roof; each section's roof has 2 windows. The north facade of the more easterly section is of clapboard over a low fieldstone foundation. The entrance door, which is the central bay, is presently at sidewalk level, the wooden door is half/wood (a single recessed panel) and half/glass (a single pane in the upper half of the door). Only the simplest side enframingent is present.

Flanking double hung sash windows are also simply treated. Their (presumed) earlier pane arrangement has disappeared and they each now possess one large pane per sash over a narrow wooden sill. Two pedimented roof dormers are treated with the same sparse decoration. Such trim as exists is painted white while the wall surface is a pale green.

The western section is slightly livelier - the sills are wider and there are wooden lintels over the ground floor windows and entrance (the easternmost bay). As was true with the clapboard section, the windows here, while being glass and aluminum storm windows, have wooden jambs and sashes. Each section has 3 windows, vertically aligned with the ground floor bays; these windows (also 1/1) have all wood trim. The color scheme is repeated here, although the walls are of brick laid in stretcher bond.

As noted above, both sections present, on their street facades only, a narrowly projection slate mansard roof supported by 7 scroll brackets with widely spaced dentils between each bracket in the pattern B (bracket) 6 (dentils) B4B5B5B4B4. The only trim on the roof is a narrow white molding above the eaves. Three stepped header courses lead the roof into the brick section; a similar space exists between the roof and the 2 story corner posts which flank the north facade of the wooden section. (Again, see explanation in question 7.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

**SPECIFIC DATES**

1775 (?); c. 1840

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

Christian Yingling; William

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Yingling

The Christian Yingling House is architecturally significant for Westminster, and for the Mid-Atlantic region because of its date and because of its development. The first owner, after William Winchester laid out the original town in 1764, was David Shriver, who bought the lot (number 27) in 1768.

The dwelling he built was a 15' x 25' (100?) cabin which forms the northeast corner of the existing structure. The only full basement present is under this section and, in the basement, one can see how much thicker are the walls that define this 15' x 25' space than are the foundation walls of the other sections; the basement has always been entered in the same place (the southern corner of the west facade); today, of course, the entrance is in the later-created central hall. The basement has a brick floor indicating that the room was meant to be used, possibly as a kitchen, as does the 7' wide fireplace found in the center of the west wall. The present tenant does not allow entry; her neighbors, and landlady, speak of traces of a fireplace above this basement chimney; all indications suggest that the chimney would have been exterior.

One can see through holes in the basement walls that the beams supporting the floors of the other sections run parallel with the street; those in the (supposed) oldest section are larger and run perpendicular to the street.

Thus Yingling's cabin was most likely a Maryland example of the "few scattered cabins of stone, frame, or log, with rectangular floor plans and gable end chimneys..." (Glassie, p. 49), that sheltered the earliest pioneers.

The diary of Katharine Jones Shellman reveals that between 1822 and 1832 the house was the residence of Jacob Powder (or Pouder). On June 22, 1840, Powder mortgaged this and other property to John Fettering for \$1180 (WW4/513, Carroll County land records); the mortgage is a crucial instrument as it describes lot 27 as being improved by a "white weatherboard home with a stabling in the rear on the alley".

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northwest corner of lot 26 as shown on the original plat of Westminster, on the south side of Main Street and running thence South 59½ degrees West 198 minutes to an alley, then with the alley North 30½ degrees West 55 minutes, then North 59½ degrees East 198 minutes to Main Street, then with Main Street South 30½ degrees East 55 minutes to the beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

September, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

C/O - City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Four years later, on March 25, 1844, Powder and Fettering were both dead and their executors sold the property to William Yingling for \$600 (Deed 3/376).

Yingling apparently found the house too cramped and set about enlarging it into an L-shape. He accomplished this by doubling both the length and width of the older structure. This resulted in a building with gable ends to the south and to the west; each gable had a cavernous fireplace in the gable end. The gable and fireplace still exist on the south front; the exterior wall of the west front has traces of the former outline still evident, and it is also possible to see the outline of the chimney cap on this end. This fireplace was also probably exterior, as the warming ovens are still existing on the mantel area which extends about 8" from the interior wall. Yingling thus had a 6 room 2 story L-shaped house, open to the southwest, which is what is indicated on an 1877 plat of the City.

Yingling was the probable builder of the "slave cabin" before he died on November 29, 1875 (Will 4/430) and his widow, Mary, sold the house and lot to Viola W. Reaver, wife of Upton Reaver, for \$1250 (Deed 54/439, dated March 1, 1881). The Reavers died intestate; their daughter Sara J. Mitchell, and her husband James, sold their half-interest in the place to the Reaver's other daughter, Elizabeth C. Stevens (and Millard F., her husband) of Lancaster, Pennsylvania (Deed 164/394, dated September 14, 1936).

Things moved quickly for the old house now; the Stevenses sold it to Jesse L. and Bessie Berman in deed 181/264 dated "June 7, A.D. 1943" (mind your millennium). The next year the Bermans sold the lot to Austin R. and Margaret C. Zepp (April 10, 1944 183/220) for the same price they paid for it (I.R.S. stamps are \$3.85 for both). On February 22, 1946 the Zepps sold the place to Charles E. and Alma R. Shriner (Deed 189/93; I.R.S. stamps \$9.90). One tenant notes that after Shriner died on November 10, 1952, Mrs. Shriner then divided the house into apartments, dividing up the large rooms, and by adding the rear additions. Mrs. Shriner sold it to the present owners, Arthur S. and Bernice E. Taylor on November 10, 1970, deed 477/580.

It has largely been through Mrs. Taylor's efforts that the "slave cabin" has been restored. Her efforts have saved a small yet vitally important building. This is probably the only remaining slave cabin in the City. Its plan, that of a single rectangular room, with a small corner staircase, and a large exterior chimney, mark it as a curious holdover of a style common in the tide-water area 250-300 years ago.

A photograph of a long since destroyed log cabin (further west on Main Street) is attached as a suggestion of how Yinglin's cabin might have looked. This cabin, "Aunt Bessie's", is popularly held to be pre-Revolutionary.

Behind a four-foot galvanized sheet metal door and above a rocky alley is the blind east front of the wooden section. Built in two 15 foot sections (the front being of wood, the rear of 5 course common bond), both sections are two stories tall above a roughly coursed field-stone foundation. There is a large flat-capped brick chimney rising approximately 1 foot inside the wall of board section. The wood in the board section is extremely rough weatherboard on the ground floor and smoother, resembling the north facade, above.

The west facade fronts a 20' wide garden and is, therefore, more open. Randomly placed windows punctuate the two distinct sections of the front. The first (northerly) section has 4 windows; an elongated wide transomed 2 pane window on the northern ground floor with a 1/1 double-hung sash window aligned above it on the second floor. A 2/2 double-hung sash window is on each floor of the rear of that section. Above a very narrow single board molding, a broad brick chimney is flush with the center of the wall; its flat-cap parallels the flat roof of the whole section. The two rear windows have brick sills which project 3 inches from the wall and are painted white, as are all the other window trims.

Behind this section, but keeping the wall surface smooth, is a tin covered shed roofed cinder block addition which has a simple single board molding at the roofline, as did the other section. Two vertically aligned 2/2 glass and aluminum storm windows are in the center of this addition.

The combined south facades of the two buildings are made rhythmically bold by the varied roof lines, by informally placed windows, and by chimneys. The stretcher bond south wall of the "wooden" section is dominated by a large exterior flat-capped brick chimney. The rich red paint that covers the chimney is almost exactly opposite the value of the pale green that the walls are painted. (The same shade covers all the facades' walls, except for the west front which is painted 2 shades - this and a more olive color - because the present owners ran out of paint and didn't wish to buy more.)

A square flat roofed stretcher bond 2 story tower is located at the eastern end of this facade, with a narrow exterior chimney running up and rising above its western edge. The plainly molded tin covered top of the tower is level with the base of the gable roof of the "wooden" section.

There is a 6/6 window under the peak of the gable and one 2/2 window (vertically aligned) on each floor. The tower also has 2 vertically aligned windows - on its south and west facades. (All windows are double-hung sash with the same simple white wood trim noted elsewhere.)

The flat roof of the "brick" section's south facade is covered with tin, folded over and nailed to the eaves. The western two-thirds of

this section is cinder block and has one centrally placed 2/2 window per floor. The narrow central section is covered with clapboard and defines a through hall - stair space. The modern glass and aluminum storm door on the ground level is covered with a green and white aluminum awning.

About 20 feet behind the large exterior chimney is a gracefully proportioned outbuilding. The wife of the present owner believes it to have been a slave cabin (which seems possible). Laid in a pale rose 6 course common bond between a high fieldstone foundation and a gable roof covered with rolled green asbestos, the building displays far more finesse than does any part of the main house. The west (gable end) entrance has a tongue-in-groove white painted door above 3 unpainted wooden steps, with a 6/6 double-hung sash window directly above it lighting the loft. North and south facades are identical to each other with one centrally placed 6/6 double-hung sash window per wall. The east front almost entirely consists of an exterior flat-capped chimney similar to that of the south front of the main building. The door and the 2 axial windows are finished with 3 course gauged flat arches; only the width of a white painted board decorates the eaves.



<p>1. STATE <i>Mad</i>          COUNTY <i>Carr</i>          TOWN <i>Westminster</i> VICINITY          STREET NO.            ORIGINAL OWNER          ORIGINAL USE          PRESENT OWNER          PRESENT USE          WALL CONSTRUCTION <i>Clapbd. over log</i>          NO. OF STORIES</p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY</p> <p>2. NAME <i>288 E. Main St.</i>            DATE OR PERIOD <i>ca. 1775</i>          STYLE          ARCHITECT          BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Oldest house still standing in Westminster          (accdg. to records of Judge Parke, Westminster)          owner 1964: Mrs. Alma Shriver</i></p>	
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    <i>Endangered</i>                      <i>Interior</i>                      <i>Exterior</i></p>	
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)          INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.  <i>Westminster Bi Cent. Program</i>  <i>10/4/64</i></p>	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> <p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  <i>Rivars</i>  <i>10/70</i>            DATE OF RECORD</p>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

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299 S. Main Street

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CARR 123

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9/26 C. Weir



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"slur cabin"

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S. Facade  
9/76 C. Weeks



CARR 123

288 E. Main St. Westminster

"Slur cabin" NE parade

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